

# Transgender Equity Council Agenda

Regular Meeting

May 12, 2022 - 05:30 PM

Conference Room 208, North Regional Library

**Members Present:** Dianna Anderson (Co-Chair), Kenzie Weller (Co-Chair), Malaysia Abdi, Nomi Badboy, Billie Kurek, Nissa Mitchell, Janna Peterson, Becca Sanborn, and Destiny Xiong (Quorum - 8)

**Members Absent:** Mae Brooks, Olivia St John (Co-Chair), Taren Wood, Ameera Sultana Khan,

**Others Present:** Beckett

**Staff :** Track Trachtenberg

## Call To Order

1. Roll Call.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

## Discussion

3. In-person TEC meeting plans – let's aim for Whittier area – Franklin Library could work, with backup? Let's try to stick with one location as much as possible unless new members need something else, and stay with 5:30
4. Transgender Equity Council recommendation updates – see linked document below for all updates – included here are just the additional conversation notes:
  1. Housing:
    1. [Sign up to join the rent stabilization workgroup here](#)
  2. Community Safety:
    1. Sex Workers' Outreach Project is holding an event called Dancing in the Streets (DITS) June 4<sup>th</sup>, looking for attendees and volunteers – as part of the Decim/repeal Loitering Ordinance project
  3. Bathrooms:
    1. How can we work on getting period supplies in men's rooms?
    2. Is accosting people over whether they're in the right bathroom classified as harassment? Gender identity is a protected class, but it has to be overt and you have to have a witness in order to win your case
    3. Could people be trained on how to intervene if someone is being harassed? (Especially in City buildings, but also anywhere...)

1. When Becca was at Hennepin County, trained security staff on the law (there's no prohibition on anyone using the bathroom of their choice). Training went well, not sure what happened afterwards, but didn't know of any incidents
2. Connect with trainers about adding this (witness to harassment, people get to use what bathroom they want, etc.) – Shor and Enzi
3. Track will connect with Gina about training security
4. Role of ABCs:
  1. Can TEC also present to Mayor under new governance structure? Probably, not but will do the following:
    1. Split recommendations into Mayor and Council in the fall
    2. Brief Mayor directly on recommendations

[Fall 2021 TEC Recommendations to Council - May 2022 Updates](#)

5. Upcoming advocacy opportunities:
  1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget – see below
  2. Annual budget – if there is anything you want to make sure gets included in the Mayor's budget, we need to connect with department heads as soon as possible
6. Subcommittee Updates:
  3. Policy
    - MPS reaffirming support for trans/non-binary students
    - Can send Council letter of support for gender equity terms & conditions in contracts
    - American Rescue Plan Act budget proposal does not include TEC priority of incentivizing gender-neutral single-stall restrooms – Track will create email script. TEC will send a letter of support (Janna and Dianna will draft)
    - Municipal ID's – City ID that allows undocumented folks to have a photo ID. To push for that, we can prove the other ways it's useful (i.e. trans people changing names and gender markers, disabled folks who can't drive, minors, people who need to be closeted in some spaces and want one gender marker on one ID but another on another. Want to loop other City services into it – can we attach library cards, Metro Transit, etc.)
    - Abortion protections – having Gender Justice present in July, CM Chughtai wants to help start a City-funded abortion fund (would be part

of November budget). Could we look into City-run places for people to stay also?

4. Community Engagement

- Community Connections Conference @ Convention Center, Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>
- Youth Pride @ Como Park, Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Twin Cities Pride @ Loring Park, Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>
- Plans: give out candy and pronoun pins, easy to win game (spin game?), suggestion box on what you want the TEC to do, sign-up sheet, talking points, bathroom survey

**Presentation**

7. City of Minneapolis Office of Performance and Innovation - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Teams

1. Started working on unarmed public safety alternatives to policing in 2019
2. 2020, presented to Council on:
  1. Mobile behavioral health crisis response teams
  2. Embedded mental health professional in 911
  3. Shifting additional 911 calls to 311 (reporting past, non-violent issues that don't need police response)
  4. Overnight shift for traffic control to handle parking issues instead of police
  5. Print and media campaign through Juice House, beyond City's Communications department, so that we reach the communities that we actually want to make sure know about these services
3. Launched Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR) Team in December 2021
  1. Since then until end of April, took a little over 1600 calls (about 100 calls/week)
  2. Two teams currently, running 24/7 City-wide Monday through Friday, just launched a 9-5 weekend shift (that already has the most volume of calls coming in), still hiring for part-time responders to fill weekends 24/7 (if you know anyone interested, [send them to Canopy Mental Health and Consulting](#) – Black-owned mental health organization running this work. Developed Canopy Roots program specifically for this work)

1. Don't have to be a licensed mental health professional, but have to be a mental health practitioner (have experience in the field)
3. They are the City's fourth first responder (fire, EMS, police, BCR – all go through 911)
4. Call-taker in 911 is the one who decides which first responder it should go to – a caller can request the BCR, but the situation has to meet certain criteria for the 911 responder to send the BCR to them. Has to be a mental/behavioral health related call, non-violent, no firearms (state statute requires MPD to respond to anything with firearms or violence), no medical emergency (would require EMS). Can send multiple first responders though if needed
5. Relationship between MPD and BCR has been going quite well! Well-received in 911 as well
6. What's hard?
  1. Difficult relationship with Hennepin EMS, which has negative consequences for community members when both need to collaborate on an incident. EMS doesn't like that BCR responds without police – EMS wants police to clear every call first
  2. Limited options for connections to ongoing support – BCR is just acute crisis response team, but so many of the ongoing resources are underfunded and understaffed (and this is heightened now that overnight shifts are going out, because places are often closed at night)
7. Presented an update to Council on April 20<sup>th</sup> and the Deputy Chief (who is part of their Implementation Planning Team) participated to advocate for more BCR vans (as did the Assistant Director of 911). Would prefer that they have 5 vans (one per precinct) rather than just 2 – this will be a November budget ask
8. Trying to get funding in the Mayor's budget, but it's politically hard...how can the TEC help that would have more sway?
9. They are contractors, not a City department – it's a pilot program. Previous Council Members pushed for them to receive ongoing funding – it's in the general fund, so it's more stable than other pilot funding, but with the changes in government structure, not sure what that looks like moving forward if the Mayor wanted to change their funding. Ongoing funding of two 24/7 vans should be good, but not sure about expansion
10. Were intentional in making sure that Canopy is paying them well because it's hard work, want to prevent burnout. Canopy is paying

responders 20% more than they would get elsewhere – so while there is no union currently, Canopy is intentional about paying them what they should earn and providing good benefits. Office of Performance and Innovation is trying to get feedback on how the BCR team is doing and what support they need

11. First pot of funding came from MPD's budget, which was controversial. That would not happen anymore with the political landscape, so need to figure out where to find \$10,000,000
12. Want to disaggregate demographic information whenever we can to ensure we're reaching the communities we know most need it. Have geographic data, but don't have demographic data because it's hard to collect that appropriately during a crisis. There's info for responders to complete – have race and age, but not gender, because it's all responder perceived anyway.
13. Can we embed case management or service connection?
  1. If someone is interested in receiving follow-up, maybe we lean on the embedded mental health professional in 911 for that (once that pilot is going)
  2. Try to connect someone to ongoing case management when the client is interested (all BCR services are voluntary – no involuntary transport, etc.)
  3. Can we connect with suicide hotlines (in either direction)? Make sure suicide hotlines connect people to BCR (and tell them which things will cause cops to come to 911 calls versus BCR)
14. What is the accountability for Canopy Roots?
  1. Primarily metrics from the City CAD system they're attached to (have to input the "resolution" of the situation), voluntary transport when needed (even if outside City boundaries), have to complete an incident report if they use non-violent restraints (Canopy can review the details and do quality coaching and training in response), data about transport holds
15. They are mandatory reporters – not sure who they call to report
16. Have to document if they do a suicide assessment (without identifying information – just to ensure the responders are doing the right things and determining if there's anywhere where training might be needed)

## **Adjournment**

**Next Transgender Equity Council meeting: Jun 9, 2022**

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